AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of computing an answer to a query path pattern, comprising:

(a) associating nodes in a query pattern with respective streams containing positional attributes;

(b) associating a respective stack to each node in the query pattern;

(c) sorting the stream nodes according to a first one of the positional attributes;

(d) determining whether a first set of streams is empty;

(e) retrieving a first node in the first set of streams having a minimum value for the first one of the positional attributes;

(f) removing partial answers that cannot extend to full answers from a stack associated with the query pattern node;

(g) augmenting remaining partial answers with a further stream node;

(h) determining whether the further stream node is a leaf node; and

(i) producing solutions if the further node is a leaf node.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first one of the positional attributes corresponds to left position value.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the positional attributes include one or more of left position value, right position value, and level number.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first set of streams is in a substree rooted at a given node associated with the query pattern.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) An article comprising:

a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a machine result in the following:

(a) associating nodes in a query pattern with respective streams containing positional attributes;

(b) associating a respective stack to each node in the query pattern;

(c) sorting the stream nodes according to a first one of the positional attributes;

(d) determining whether a first node in the first set of streams having a minimum value for the first one of the positional attributes;

(e) retrieving a first node in the first set of streams having a minimum value of the first one of the positional attributes;

(f) removing partial answers that cannot extend to full answers from a stack associated with the query pattern node;

(g) augmenting remaining partial answers with a further stream node;

(h) determining whether the further stream node is a leaf node; and

(i) producing solutions if the further node is a leaf node.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A computer, comprising:

a memory having stored instructions that when the executed result in the following:

(a) associating nodes in a query pattern with respective streams containing positional attributes;

(b) associating a respective stack to each node in the query pattern;

(c) sorting the stream nodes according to a first one of the positional attributes;

(d) determining whether a first node in the first set of streams having a minimum value for the first one of the positional attributes;

(e) retrieving a first node in the first set of streams having a minimum value of the first one of the positional attributes;

(f) removing partial answers that cannot extend to full answers from a stack associated with the query pattern node;

(g) augmenting remaining partial answers with a further stream node;

(h) determining whether the further stream node is a leaf node; and

(i) producing solutions if the further node is a leaf node.

13. (Cancelled)